
**COOPERATION WITH AGENCIES THAT ARE NOT IN THE STATEWIDE
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM AND WITH OTHER ENTITIES**

4.8(b)(1)

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation continues to work with multiple agencies and entities throughout the state. A number of these are related to cooperative ventures with the Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse in development of a sustained system of benefit planning and other vocational supports that facilitate employment of persons with the most significant disabilities. Listed below are the primary businesses, agencies and groups with whom we are currently working. The only groups in this attachment, with whom we have a formal written agreement, are with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and Department of Veterans' Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

North Dakota Department of Agriculture - Cooperative agreement with ND DVR to assist with DVR's Rural Services initiative. The department's Ag Mediation Services provides on-site assessments of the financial health and viability of the farm/ranch operation.

Department of Veterans' Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation Program – Cooperative agreement with VA/VR is to 'ensure seamless, coordinated, and effective VR services to North Dakota's veterans with disabilities and their dependents with disabilities; to improve cooperation and collaboration between the two agencies; to avoid duplication of services; to improve interagency communication; and to establish staff cross-training opportunities.'

While we do not have formal written agreements with the following entities, state and regional DVR staff work cooperatively with them based on the individual consumer needs.

Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) – IPAT is North Dakota's Tech Act Program. IPAT serves as North Dakota's federally funded assistive technology project through a sub-contract with the North Dakota's Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. IPAT offers free services to North Dakotans with disabilities to help them get the assistive technology (AT) services they need. IPAT is a statewide program designed to increase access to, and acquisition of, assistive technology. The DVR Director is a voting member on their advisory council and participates in a collaborative partnership with IPAT and others on an AT Re-use Program established in 2010.

Business Information Centers (BIC) – Located in Bismarck and Grand Forks, the BICs provide consultation and resources for DVR consumers on various aspects of establishing and maintaining a business.

Small Business Administration (SBA) – Ongoing coordination of shared training and education programs between SBA staff and DVR staff.

Department of Commerce and local economic development groups – Offers resources for funding and business development for DVR consumers.

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) - Provides mentoring and consultation to DVR consumers who are developing business plans.

Lewis and Clark Development Corporation - Process revolving loan fund applications for DVR consumers pursuing self-employment.

Developmental Disabilities Council – Periodically provides monies for the revolving loan fund. They also provided an overview of transition data in ND as it relates to ND DVR and employment outcomes.

North Dakota Association for the Disabled (NDAD) – Occasionally provides monies to DVR consumers for non-employment related expenses.

North Dakota Chamber of Commerce - Cooperative training and information exchange. Regional DVR staff are also members of their local chambers and participate on various chamber committees. This enables DVR to develop relationships with the business community.

Rocky Mountain ADA Center - Provides technical assistance, resources, education and training on disability issues including the ADA.

Center of Technology and Business – Provides technical assistance to DVR consumers in developing Business and Marketing plans.

North Dakota Center for People with Disabilities (NDCPD) at Minot State University – NDCPD also administers the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) in North Dakota. DVR staff also serve as members of various MIG committees.